

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2002

Present: Lou Mercuri (Chairman) Sgt. Norcross (Police) Roy LaMotte (Traffic Engineer)  
Rosalie Myers (Clerk)

Other Aldermen Present: Ald. Bryson, Sangiolo, Mansfield, Merrill, Linsky, Salvucci,  
Lipof, Yates, Bullwinkle

#174-01      ALD. SANGIOLO submitting request on behalf JONATHAN YEO,  
Williams School PTO President and Cindy Marchand, Principal of  
Williams School for traffic light at Woodland and Grove pursuant to  
Traffic Engineering Review as part of mitigation from Jordan Marsh  
Warehouse petition. (Ward 4) (06-21-01)  
**HELD ON JUNE 21, 2001 FOR ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC COUNTS**  
**AND REVIEW BY PS/T**

ACTION:      APPROVED 3-0 AS AMENDED (INSTALLATION OF FOUR-WAY  
STOP SIGN)

NOTE:          Ald. Sangiolo brought the Committee up to date on this issue. She  
reported that Ald. Bryson had helped facilitate a meeting with Roy LaMotte and Rick  
Bryant regarding the type of traffic improvements that should be made in the Williams  
School area based on the mitigation fund from the Jordan Marsh redevelopment project.  
This item was put on the docket to begin discussion as to whether a traffic light was  
necessary or possibly some other type of traffic calming device.

Jonathon Yeo of 152 Grove Street pointed out though there might not be consensus for  
the light within the immediate community; there certainly is consensus that that is a very  
dangerous intersection.

Roy LaMotte said the intersection has been evaluated on two separate occasions to see if  
the location did need a signal and it was found that at this time it fails to meet the  
warrants. The level of safety to pedestrians is the key concern. Multiple discussions with  
crossing guards and the school principal have taken place. Presently there is a flashing  
beacon that is supporting a two-way stop and now from a traffic-engineering standpoint,  
the proposal is for a four-way stop at this location versus a fully actuated traffic signal.  
The rationale for this is that it would meet the warrants for a four-way stop and in an  
order of progression will allow the Traffic Department to evaluate the amount of delay  
that will be contributed here. (There are really only four hours a day that will be  
affected.) The cost of a fully actuated signal would be approximately \$85,000. utilizing

some of the material currently available plus an advance warning sign that would be controlled with the light would bring the cost to approximately \$125,000. At this time the recommendation Mr. LaMotte presented was to move from a two-way traffic control to a four-way stop.

Ald. Bryson said she did not want the money in the mitigation to go anywhere else until we are sure the signal is not needed. Ald. Sangiolo asked if the flasher would stay if it became a four way stop and Mr. LaMotte responded that it would. Karen Maloney of Grove Street had concerns regarding traffic flow because of the volume of traffic going up and down Grove Street Vs what is coming across Woodland. John Harney also spoke in support of the stop sign.

Sgt. Norcross made a motion for approval of a four-way stop. The Committee voted 3-0 in favor of approving the docket item as amended for a four-way stop sign.

#444-01      ALD. LIPOF requesting “No Turn on Red” on WALTHAM STREET at Washington Street, West Newton. (Ward 3) (01-24-02)

ACTION:      APPROVED 3-0

NOTE:      Ald. Lipof began the discussion describing many close calls with the right turn from Waltham onto Watertown Street. He was urged by many people to bring forward a “No Turn on Red”. Mr. LaMotte explained that the three year accident history at this location has been investigated and the volume of traffic using the intersection has been recently measured. The question of whether the crosswalk is in the right location, for walking patterns is currently being evaluated. This is a difficult intersection because it resides less than 100 ft. from the intersection of Washington Street and Watertown. Mr. LaMotte suggests the location meets the warrants for a “No Turn on Red.” Relocating the crosswalk may be a consideration in the future, but would require additional design and funding for changes. Consideration of eliminating the crosswalk is also a possibility if the “No turn on Red” cannot be adopted. Mr. LaMotte said pedestrian walking patterns suggested that pedestrians will not go to alternative locations within the corridor of Washington Street. An employee of West Newton Dental testified that she has almost been hit three times when using the signal. She uses the crosswalk constantly and finds it is very dangerous.

Chairman Mercuri read a letter received from Jill and Michael Leviton, owners of Lumiere Restaurant, who wrote in support of Ald. Lipof’s item. Ald. Salvucci understood that the crosswalk has created some problems, but believes implementing the right turn on red will create further operational difficulties for traffic while increasing the delay throughout the square. Mr. LaMotte suggests the “No Turn on Red” be implemented based on the warrants for a “No Turn on Red” as outlined in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Devices Standards.

Sgt. Norcross said enforcement has been on going with a number of citations issued for motorists failing to comply with the new restriction. Chairman Mercuri also felt the present situation (without a sign) is dangerous. Traffic Engineer stated his position was to protect pedestrian safety at its highest level. The Committee moved approval of this item 3-0.

# 98-00      ALD. MANSFIELD requesting No Parking 7-9 am, on CENTRE STREET, east side from BEACON STREET to LYMAN STREET to allow two lanes of traffic flow and relieve congestion at Centre/Beacon/Cypress intersection. (Ward 6) (02/24/00)  
**HELD ON JUNE 22, 2000 (TRIAL WILL COMMENCE AFTER APPROPRIATE DATA HAS BEEN COLLECTED)**

ACTION:      HELD 3-0 (Trial extended)

NOTE:        Ald. Mansfield was present and said the issue is traffic flow particularly during the commuter hours. The no parking 7-9 am that Ald. Mansfield requested was for an area along the west side of the Newton Center Green on Center Street.

Mr. LaMotte said a number of different construction projects and holiday periods were the reasons for this trial not being instituted earlier. The trial was started on January 22<sup>nd</sup> of this year and ran until February 28<sup>th</sup>. This time period was to assess whether more traffic could pass through the intersection and whether motorists would adapt to using the parking lane as a travel lane even though it is only 8 feet wide as opposed to an 11 or 12 foot travel lane. The amount of traffic flowing through this intersection was not significantly different than previous counting periods. The level of service analysis also confirmed that no change in service occurred due to the trial. Fourteen different evaluation periods were performed during the thirty day trial.

Ald. Mansfield felt more time is needed for motorists to get used to new traffic patterns and didn't feel that the trial was long enough.

Michael Grill of Crescent Avenue asked about a truck exclusion that had been discussed in the past. Since this was not the topic of the evening, it would be researched and reported out in the future after checking with the Mass. Highway Department who is the issuing authority.

Chairman Mercuri suggested that a new trial be instituted. The Committee voted 3-0 to conduct a new trial and held the item.

#325-01      ALD. YATES requesting handicapped spaces on ELLIOT STREET around crosswalks at 270 Elliot Street on Saturday afternoon from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm Sunday morning from 7:30 to 10:30, and Sunday afternoon from 5:00 pm to 6:00 PM to allow handicapped residents easy access to

the ramp at the front of Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Church, Newton  
Upper Falls. (Ward 5) (11-15-01)

ACTION: NAN 3-0

NOTE: Since this request is not for a full handicapped space, Mr. LaMotte said temporary portable signage could be supplied and it could be installed only when there is a need.

#362-01 CAROL VAGHAR, 42 Fairfield Street requesting stop signs at BOLTON & FAIRFIELD STREET, Newtonville. (Ward 2) (11-15-01)

ACTION: APPROVED 3-0

NOTE: The petitioner, Carol Vaghar, explained she was requesting the stop signs, as there had been a number of accidents at this location. Mr. Mercuri read a letter in favor of the petition from Mr. Charles Cooper. Mr. LaMotte said there were three reportable accidents and the traffic patterns were studied. Mr. LaMotte said it was his opinion that stop signs should be installed on Fairfield at Bolton.

#82-02 ANTHONY ANTONELLIS, 111 Dalby Street, Newtonville requesting handicapped parking space opposite 111 DALBY STREET. (Ward 2) (03-21-02)

ACTION: HELD 3-0.

NOTE: The petitioner, Anthony Antonellis was not present and the item was held 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalie Myers  
Council Clerk